

OFFICIALS ADMIT 35 SCHOOLS LACK FIREPROOF STAIRS

Year Old Safety Recommendations
Put Off for Want of
Appropriations.

250,000 MAY STRIKE IN UNSAFE BUILDINGS

Commissioner Robert Adamson of the Fire Department and Supt. C. B. J. Snyder of the Bureau of Buildings of the Board of Education, admitted yesterday that there are thirty-five public school buildings in the Greater City in which there are one or more flights of wooden stairs above the first floor not enclosed in fireproof partitions. It was the absence of fireproofing about the stairs of the Diamond building in Williamsburg last Saturday which contributed to the rapid spread of the flames and the loss of twelve lives. The school situation, though known, has remained without alleviation for a year because of lack of funds.

Besides the thirty-five buildings in this admittedly unsafe condition regarding wooden stairs, Commissioner Adamson said there are thirty-one frame school buildings in Richmond and Queens boroughs. They are small buildings, however, and are comparatively safe. But there are many more than thirty-five buildings with wooden stairs leading from the cellar to the ground floor. Also there are eight schools in Manhattan and The Bronx in which the main stairways are wooden and not enclosed in fireproof partitions according to Fire Department safety standards.

The Eight Schools.

These schools are Nos. 33, East Houston and Essex streets, 108, at 60 Mott street, 3, at 157th street, east of Courtlandt avenue, 10, Eagle avenue and 183d street, 21, 25th street and White Plains avenue, 24, Kappock street, 28, at 157th, 158th streets, Third and Brook avenues, and the Evander Childs High School, at Oliveville avenue, formerly Public School 47.

The above conditions were reported to the Board of Education in a special report drawn up by Commissioner Adamson about a year ago. The report was based on a survey of all of the 120 school buildings by a special inspection squad, composed of Deputy Chief William T. Beggin of the Bureau of Fire Prevention, Deputy Battalion Chief W. P. Dougherty and Inspector Francis J. Riley. These inspectors reported six buildings as needing drastic remedy immediately.

The bureau of buildings of the Education Department estimated the cost of structural changes recommended by the Fire Department in the thirty-five buildings referred to at \$250,000, which has been added to twenty by other suggested improvements in other buildings. A request for money was made to the Board of Estimate, but Supt. Snyder wrote Commissioner Adamson a few days ago that it was not forthcoming. Commissioner Adamson thereupon wrote to the Board of Estimate asking its attention to the urgency of such action. He said that the Board of Estimate should make the stairways in the school buildings safer according to the Fire Department standards.

Some Minor Changes.

Supt. Snyder said last night over the telephone that he did not have the record at hand, but he felt certain that none of the recommended stairway work had been done, because of lack of appropriations for the work. He said that minor changes had been made in some buildings on the recommendation of the Fire Department, but that none of the stairways in the thirty-five schools mentioned had been fireproofed to his knowledge.

The fire situation as emphasized by the Diamond factory fire stirred the Board of Estimate meeting yesterday when Comptroller Frederickson, rising to a question of "high personal privilege," objected to a statement attributed to thorough President Marks in a morning newspaper of Thursday in which Mr. Marks was quoted as saying, "Mayor Mitchell is responsible for blocking legislation which would not only be designed to simplify factory inspection [the Ellenbogen-Lockwood bill], but would have prevented the terrible Diamond catastrophe."

Comptroller Frederickson objected to Mayor Mitchell's being made the subject of "wanton and unjustifiable attack." He was backed by President Marks, a member of the Board of Aldermen, who said the Mayor's veto of the Lockwood-Ellenbogen bill for distributing building inspection among the five borough building departments spoke also for himself and the Comptroller as well. Mr. Marks was asked to repudiate the interview he had given to the newspaper in question, but he refused to repudiate any except the last phrase, in which he was made to say that the Mayor was to blame for the fire disaster.

Amplifies Interview.

"I wish to amplify the interview by saying," continued Mr. Marks, "that there was a very serious question to the city when the Mayor held up his veto of the Lockwood-Ellenbogen bill until such a time as the Legislature had adjourned. This would have placed the responsibility for building inspectors. I have fought for and will continue to fight for the location of such responsibility."

To clarify the confusion that exists as to the responsibility for fire prevention measures in factories that lies with the Fire Department and the State Industrial Commission, The Sun obtained yesterday a concise statement of their several powers and duties.

The Industrial Commission has mandatory jurisdiction over the number and protection of exits through or around fire walls and the number of people permitted in the building. The Fire Commission has jurisdiction to require water buckets, portable fire appliances, sprinklers, proper protection of boilers, furnaces, chimneys and flues and the enclosure of elevators and hoistway shafts to prevent spread of flames. The Fire Commissioner has mandatory powers only in requiring the installation of fireproof receptacles for waste, non-smoking notices.

The Coroner's inquisition to establish responsibility for the loss of life in the Williamsburg fire adjourned until Monday morning after a three-hour session. Further evidence was adduced showing lack of proper enforcement of the Industrial Commission's orders for safeguarding measures in case of fire.

Officials of the Women's Trade Union League yesterday began formulating plans for a general strike of 250,000 girls working in buildings which the committee considers unsafe.

Would Have Uncle Sam Make Liquors.

Waco, Tex., Nov. 12.—A platform plank urging that the manufacture and sale of liquor in Texas be made a felony was adopted by the Socialist party in session here today. It would have the Federal Government make liquor and sell it to the consumer at cost.

EXPLORER LANG BACK FROM AFRICAN JUNGLES WITH TROPHIES FOR MUSEUM



ABOVE, a bongo, brought to the American Museum of Natural History. It is one of a group of this species of striped antelope. Below, Herbert Lang, leader of the Congo expedition which went to Africa six years ago.

Spends Six Years in the Congo Wilderness Gathering Collection.

CHARGED BY RHINOCEROS

From the depths of the great African jungle in the Belgian Congo, the haunts of the white rhinoceros, the okapi, the elephant, the lion and other big game, Herbert Lang, leader of the American Museum of Natural History's Congo expedition, conducted in cooperation with the Belgian Government, has emerged after completing a six year stay in Africa. There he gathered the largest and most important collection of specimens ever assembled. It is destined for the African hall of the museum.

Explorer Lang left New York on May 8, 1909, for the Belgian Congo. He was accompanied by James Chapin, then a student of Columbia, who returned last March with many trophies of darkest Africa. The expedition was organized to remain in the field for three years only, but the work developed so rapidly that it assumed such large proportions that six years were required to complete the task.

Long Period of Suffering.

On several occasions anxiety was felt for the explorers. There was one period of fourteen months during which no tidings were received from the members of the expedition.

Mr. Lang arrived yesterday on the French liner Patria from Lisbon. He had with him the remaining twenty cases of trophies for the museum.

Although a German by birth, Lang has no passport. His credentials from the American Museum of Natural History proved sufficient. These enabled the explorer to travel in safety from Africa to Portugal, and then to America.

Not Ill a Day in Jungle.

A remarkable feature of the journey by the explorers is that neither one of them was ill for a single day while in Africa. They were with their physicians took the usual precautions against illness.

"Out of a Belgian party of six men," said Mr. Lang, "only one survivor left Africa. The others succumbed while exploring."

Mr. Lang takes particular pride in the okapi group. At one time he captured a specimen of the animal, and for several weeks endeavored to feed it with a bottle.

Lang's supply of milk gave out, and the little okapi died. There are only a few okapi in America or Europe. Several are in the museum of Brussels and there are two specimens in a museum at Cambridge, Mass.

Mr. Lang heard the news that the great European war had begun while he was in the Belgian Congo. The news was sent by wireless to Stanleyville and then forwarded to his camp by messengers.

He had many adventures while in quest of big game. Telling of a time when he was charged by the rhinoceros, he said: "I would rather see their tails than their heads. One day we saw five white rhinoceros, and we walked over near them. I was hoping to get a picture of the group. They turned their heads toward us, and one of our hunters took a shot. The clicking of the camera seemed to act as a charm against the rhinoceros."

"We probably employed during our work in the African field 20,000 porters, and in the six years we spent there we lost only one man. He was killed by a lion. In a hunt a lion, after being wounded, remained in hiding near a tree, and suddenly leaped up from the brush and attacked our hunter. Mr. Lang, wounded him at least forty times. He lived for over a month, but finally succumbed to his wounds. But," added the explorer, "we bagged the lion."

Gong Made of Wood.

One of the trophies secured by the explorer is an enormous gong made of wood. It was a burden for twenty native porters. It is about five feet high and fourteen feet long. Several hollow logs used by the natives for wireless telegraphy are also included in the list of African curios.

While descending the river from Boma, Mr. Lang saw many hundreds of deserted villages and trading posts. They had been swept by the dreaded scourge of Africa, sleeping sickness. The Government is doing all in its power to cope with this disease, but evidently without much success.

Water Gap Hotel Destroyed by Fire

WATERGAP, Pa., Nov. 12.—The Water Gap House, at Delaware Water Gap, was destroyed by fire early this evening. The loss is \$150,000. It was built by H. Purdy Cope, owner of Hotel Albemarle, Atlantic City.

Punishment Meted Out to Everett B. Eden

An inmate who was kept locked in his cell in Sing Sing prison by Warden Osborne, by drafting him today to Clinton Prison at Dannemora, six other convicts went along on the same draft.

Belden, in Cell Under Osborne's Order, Sent to Dannemora.

OSWING, Nov. 12.—John B. Riley, Superintendent of Prisons, ended the

SING SING WITNESS TO GET IMMUNITY

Osborne's Lawyer Again Implies Inquiry Is Intended to "Get" Warden.

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Nov. 12.—One at least of District Attorney Weeks' convict witnesses who have been telling the Grand Jury about troubles of various kinds in Sing Sing under Warden Thomas Mott Osborne is to be immune from prosecution for any part in those troubles. Mr. Weeks would not deny either that more may testify without waiving the exemption from prosecution that automatically follows appearing before the Grand Jury in such circumstances.

The prisoner whose testimony yesterday was considered of such value as James Harvey, Huntington W. Merchant, Mr. Osborne's lawyer, implied that if Harvey had not waived immunity that fact strengthened his and Warden Osborne's contention that the inquiry was intended rather to punish the warden than to punish fighting and immorality among the convicts.

Mr. Weeks was rather inclined to resent Mr. Merchant's criticism, but said "the investigation is proceeding in an orderly manner, and I am too busy to bother about Mr. Merchant."

Mr. Weeks was busy for several hours yesterday with the Grand Jury the Mutual Welfare League court records that have been his working basis in most of the inquiry so far, and checking up the result of four days' testimony. No witnesses were called, and the jury adjourned until Monday.

Significance was attached here to the announcement that the National Commission on Prisons and Prison Labor was to meet to-morrow at Adolph Lewisohn's home, at Ardley, with Warden Osborne and Miss Katharine B. Davis, Commissioner of Correction in New York, as guests. It was believed that the committee planned further representations to Gov. Whitman in behalf of Mr. Osborne.

Mr. Lewisohn explained, however, that the meeting has taken place at his home every year at about this time, always on a Saturday. He said the Grand Jury inquiry was proceeding only informally, if at all, and the meeting had no connection with it. The speakers at the meeting will be Dr. Hastings, Mr. Hart, chairman of the jail committee, and Dean George W. Kirkway. Many prominent women interested in prison reform will be present.

RILEY SAVES OFFENDER.

Belden, in Cell Under Osborne's Order, Sent to Dannemora.

TEN YEARS FOR WIRE TAPERS

Englishman Who Lost \$7,000 Will
Shun U. S. Hereafter.

Claude L. Clebourne, a young Englishman who returned to his home in Bath to get \$7,000 that he turned over to five wiretappers in this city, September 17 last, will return to his native land to-day saying he would shun this great country forever. He sat in Judge Malone's part of General Sessions yesterday and saw three of the men sent to prison, while a fourth was allowed to go because he gave valuable information in the case.

Frank Meyers, who went under the name of Fred Morley, and Robert White, who was called Bob Leonard, got from one to ten years each in Sing Sing. Judge Malone attached to the papers a note to the Parole Board that they should not be released until the maximum term of the sentence had been served. Charles Smith, who went under the name of Joe Belmont, was sent to the penitentiary for a year and fined \$500. All from the same case.

Clebourne, who is secretary of the Horstmann Car Company of Bath, England, was in this country to buy automobiles for his company.

Before sentence was passed the defendants got together and raised a few hundred dollars that went back to the complainant in the case. It was taken into account by Judge Malone, he said, in passing sentence.

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